

REMARKS/ ARGUMENTS

The foregoing amendment and the following arguments are provided to impart precision to the claims, by more particularly pointing out the invention, rather than to avoid prior art.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections

Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,072,804 (hereinafter "Beyers, Jr.") in view of U.S. Patent 5,933,594 (hereinafter "La Joie").

To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). (Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) ¶ 2143.03).

As amended, independent Claims 1, 6, 10, and 14 include claim limitations that are not disclosed nor suggested by Beyers, Jr. nor La Joie. As a result, applicants' independent claims are patentable over Beyers, Jr. and La Joie.

In particular, applicants' independent claims 1, 6, 10, and 14 include the claim limitation, or limitation similar thereto, of:

a buffer having at least one trigger, integrated on a component connected with a bus, to observe and echo a predetermined finite set of signals transmitted on said bus, signals transmitted into said component and signals transmitted out of said component; . . . (Applicant's amended claim 1.)

Neither Beyers, Jr. and La Joie disclose nor suggest a buffer having at least one trigger, integrated on a component connected with a bus, to observe and echo a predetermined finite set of signals transmitted on said bus, as claimed by applicant.

Therefore, as a result of neither Beyers, Jr. and La Joie disclosing nor suggesting a buffer having at least one trigger to observe and echo a predetermined finite set of signals transmitted on a bus, applicant's independent claims are patentable over Beyers, Jr. and La Joie.

In addition, the remaining claims depend from one of the independent claims as discussed above, and therefore include similar limitations, and as a result are patentable over Bunney.

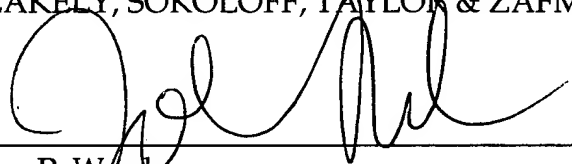
CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call John Ward at (408) 720-8300, x237.

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John P. Ward', is written over a horizontal line.

John P. Ward
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Date: 01/21/2004

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